



Leader's Growth Group Homework Guide

For the week of May 21, 2017

(This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing & leading your group in discussion)

ANNOUNCEMENT: End of Quarter / Fall Plans

Discuss Plans for the Fall & Next Week - Next week is the last meeting of the quarter. Find out from your group if they know their plans for being part of the group in the fall. They can indicate their plans on the Feedback Forms. Also, let us know of any roster updates or changes that you know of to your meeting day, time or location for the fall quarter when you submit your attendance.

Feedback Forms - Have your group fill out their Feedback Forms this week or next week (they were mailed to your group's leaders & hosts). Extra packets are available at the front office during the week. Let your group know how important their honest feedback is for you as leaders and hosts. Make sure you allow plenty of time to complete the forms. Collect them at the end of the meeting, and review them with your host. Turn them in to the Growth Group drop box on any of our campuses or mail them to the Church office. We need them turned in by June 11, so we can start forming fall groups.

Prayer for New Fall Growth Group Leaders & Hosts - Take some time to pray for new leaders and hosts to launch new Growth Groups in the fall.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Your Growth Group has firsthand experience seeing "the body of Christ" in action through Weekend of Service, service projects in the community and time spent sharing with each other. Think about each member of your group and write down one strength, character trait or positive action you've seen from each person

***If you're a new group you don't have to go over this question.*

2. Most people attending church for a while have heard the term "spiritual gift" before. Despite this, many people are still unaware of their gifting(s). Why do you think that is?

New to church, feel embarrassed acknowledging gifts, feels uncomfortable or they might think they know it but they don't.

Additional Question: We heard this weekend to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. What are some reasons why we naturally tend to think this way about ourselves time and time again?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Part of the free will we've been given is that God gives us talents, strengths and abilities but does not force our hand in using them. This means we can choose to use something intended for good in a different way than God intended. What might it look like to use the gifts and strengths below in misguided or unhealthy ways?

Service (Eg. Constantly serving while your family never sees you).

Compassion *You try to help everyone to the point of getting burned out.*

Giving *You give too much away to the point of being used or enabling.*

Encouragement *You have a hard time calling people out or bringing up unhealthy things with other people.*

Teaching *Teaching starts to feel like lecturing to those you're trying to teach.*

How could Ephesians 4:11-16 help us realign using our gifts for the right purpose?

Ephesians 4:11-16 - ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

The gifts are meant to equip us for doing God's work. Why? So the body of Christ is being built up, achieving unity in the faith and growing in our knowledge of God and becoming mature, growing up in our faith.

Additional Verses: Colossians 3:17, 1 Peter 4:10

Additional Question: *It's been said our biggest strengths can also be our biggest weakness; are there any times you've seen this play out in your own life? If someone were to ask your spouse, teacher or coworker what your strengths are, what do you think they'd say? How does this align with what you'd say about your strengths?*

2. One of the first steps in understanding our gifts and abilities is to increase our self-awareness. Self-awareness is the ability to understand who we truly are and what God has made us to be. As you go through the verses below, write down principles that could help someone grow in self-awareness.

Proverbs 20:5 - The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out.

We can be completely unaware of what drives or motivates our behaviors. An insightful person seeks to understand themselves.

Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.

Be aware of the tendency to think we are something special or elevate ourselves above others. Think of yourself with sober judgment.

Psalms 26:2 - Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind

Test me, test my thoughts, motivations, actions and excuses. Check out my heart and my head. Give God permission.

1 Timothy 4:16 - Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Pay special attention to what you're doing and what you believe.

Additional Verses: *2 Corinthians 13:5, Proverbs 11:14, Galatians 6:3*

Additional Questions: *Who do you know that you'd consider self-aware and why?*

What principles above do you need to work on the most?

One of the biggest ways to grow your self-awareness is being open to feedback from other people. Who, if anyone, is allowed to speak into your life?

There is a big difference between people who think they allow people to speak into their life and people who actually do.

How receptive would you say you are to other's feedback about you?

Additional Question: *How often and in what setting do you seek feedback the most? Any settings you avoid seeking feedback?*

"20 Questions to Increase Self-Awareness"

1. *What am I good at?*
2. *What am I so-so at?*
3. *What am I bad at?*
4. *What makes me tired?*
5. *What is the most important thing in my life?*
6. *Who are the most important people in my life?*
7. *How much sleep do I need?*
8. *What stresses me out?*
9. *What relaxes me?*
10. *What's my definition of success?*
11. *What type of worker am I?*
12. *How do I want others to see me?*
13. *What makes me sad?*
14. *What makes me happy?*
15. *What makes me angry?*
16. *What type of person do I want to be?*
17. *What type of friend do I want to be?*
18. *What do I think about myself?*
19. *What things do I value in life?*
20. *What makes me afraid?*

Darius Foroux, Blog post, May 5, 2016: <http://dariusforoux.com/selfawareness/>

3. We live in a very individualistic society where depending on others can be seen as a weakness or looked down upon. Because of this, the idea of working together or being one "body" of Christ can feel somewhat foreign. What guidance does 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 give on being a united body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 - ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

It starts with being aware of the part you play. Realize your part is strategic and purposeful, not an accident and not unimportant. Accept your part and be active in using your gifting for the body of Christ. In the design, we see the wisdom of the Designer: everybody has something; but nobody has everything.

What could happen if someone isn't playing their part?

When the whole body suffers, God's work isn't advanced.

How does this passage address diversity and unity occurring at the same time?

The gifts are different but they all work together for God's glory. Although the gifts are diverse, they are meant to run in harmony with other diverse gifts. Different parts with a common goal.

Additional Questions: *What might happen if more people were intentional about seeking out their part of joining together with other parts of the body of Christ? How could this verse be comforting to someone who isn't excited about their gifting?*

TAKING IT HOME

Use the following questions to help you focus on using your gifts:

- What are a few of my strengths or gifts? Where am I most prone to use them? Least?
- If you don't know your giftings, what friend, counselor, Growth Group leader, family member, pastor etc. could help you discover what your gifts are?
- Are there any gifts, strengths or abilities you have that you'd like to be more intentional about using in the next few weeks?

Optional Spiritual Gifts Tests:

<http://fbconcord.org/am-site/media/spiritualgiftstest.pdf>

http://experiencetherock.com/mp3/message/2009/broken/spir_gift_sur.PDF

Praise/Prayer Requests:

⇒

⇒

⇒

⇒

⇒

Opportunities to Use Your Gifts

Are you looking for a place to put your gifts into action? Here are a few ministries that you might consider:

- **Prayer Connection** – Stay after one or more services a month in your preferred venue or campus to pray with people. Write “Prayer Connection” on your Communication Card at any weekend service.
- **Venue/Campus Hosts** – Volunteer to help host at a weekend service for your venue or campus. Write “Venue/ Campus Host” on your Communication Card at any weekend service.
- **Midweek Office Help** – Do you enjoy working in an office environment and can work with Microsoft Office and do general administrative tasks? If so, we need your help. If interested, email volunteer@northcoastchurch.com.
- **Community Service** – Find a number of turn-key projects that make it easy to serve others in North County at NorthCoastCommunityService.org.

You Be You!

Understanding How And Why We Were Made:

Romans 12:3-8

- ✓ Giftedness always starts with **humility**.
 - Humility is not a **low opinion** of self, but an **honest** and **accurate** one.
 - Our gifts don't make us better than anyone else, just **uniquely different**.
- ✓ Our greatest **gifts** will always be our greatest **weakness**.
 - A **gift** is simply a **gift**...get **over yourself!**
- ✓ Spiritual **giftedness** does not equal spiritual **maturity**.
- ✓ Our gifts are to be used for the **Kingdom**, not just for **ourselves**.

A Famous Example:

1 Samuel 17:16-50